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downwardly-facing, vertically oriented subsidiary ribs coupled to said circumferential ledge and each having a downwardly-facing lower edge extending a distance from said circumferential ledge, said subsidiary ribs being arranged such that a portion of each of said subsidiary ribs including said downwardly-facing lower edge is separated from said circumferential wall by a space to thereby form a double-layered reinforcing and insulating annular portion whereby one layer of said double-layered portion is constituted by said subsidiary rib and another layer is constituted by said circumferential wall and said space is between said subsidiary rib and said circumferential wall, each of said subsidiary ribs being arranged between adjacent ones of said vertical ribs and having opposite lateral edges coupled to the adjacent ones of said vertical ribs.

REMARKS

Claims 17, 18, 20, 23, 25-27 are now in this application. Claims 9-16, 19, 21, 22 and 24 are cancelled. Claims 17, 18, 20, 23 and 25-27 are rejected.

Claim 17 is amended to include the features of claims 19, 21, 22 and 24 and to clarify the claim in view of the Examiner's comments in the telephonic interview and in the Advisory Action dated January 17, 2003. Thus, claim 17 now recites that

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the container body is injection-molded, that the circumferential wall is integrally coupled to a periphery of the bottom wall and that the downwardly-facing subsidiary ribs are vertically oriented and coupled to the circumferential ledge.

Claim 17 also includes the feature of the predetermined clearance previously set forth in claim 24 and thus now recites that the subsidiary ribs each have a downwardly-facing lower edge extending a distance from the circumferential ledge and are arranged such that a portion of each subsidiary rib including the downwardly-facing lower edge is separated from the circumferential wall by a space to thereby form a double-layered reinforcing and insulating annular portion "whereby one layer of said double-layered portion is constituted by said subsidiary rib and another layer is constituted by said circumferential wall and said space is between said subsidiary rib and said circumferential wall." All of these features are evident from the drawings and specification, in particular Fig. 4 wherein the space 22, referred to as a predetermined clearance, is present between the subsidiary rib 14 and the wall part 9b of the circumferential wall.

It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by the changes to claim 17 as the features added to the claim were previously set forth in dependent

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claims and thus considered by the Examiner, and further that no new issues are raised.

Claims 9, 14-22 and 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by and under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Edwards. As claims 9, 14-16, 19, 21, 22 and 24 are cancelled, this rejection is now applicable only to claims 17, 18, 20, 25 and 26.

The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed on the grounds that Edwards does not disclose a heat-insulating container including all of the features of claim 17.

Specifically, Edwards does not include a container body having "downwardly-facing, vertically oriented subsidiary ribs" coupled to a circumferential ledge and each having a downwardly-facing lower edge extending a distance from the circumferential ledge with the subsidiary ribs being arranged such that a portion of each rib including the downwardly-facing lower edge is separated from the circumferential wall by a space to thereby form a double-layered reinforcing and insulating annular portion.

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As noted above, the downwardly-facing subsidiary ribs are provided with a "predetermined clearance" or space (designated 22) with respect to the circumferential wall, i.e., a space between the ribs 14 and the circumferential wall part 9b. As such, there are two layers, one formed by the wall 9b and one formed by the rib 14, in an annular portion around the container separated by the space 22. This double-layered structure is formed "in cooperation with the circumferential wall" as set forth in the specification at page 3, lines 1-2.

There is no double-layered structure in Edwards formed by a downwardly facing, vertically oriented rib and an outer circumferential wall separated by a space or clearance as in the claimed invention. It is pointed out that the reason why the ribs 40d' in Fig. 9 appear to have a double thickness, which the Examiner asserted corresponds to a double layer, is because the cross-section of 10-10 in Fig. 9 is right at the point where the slanted ribs merge. As such, one thickness is from a left-facing rib and the other thickness is from a right-facing rib. However, the ribs 40d' do not have any double-thickness (as the rib 40 in Fig. 4) but rather only a single thickness.

In addition, the structure of the present invention is directed to an injection-molded container body. The container body of Edwards is formed in a different manner. In the Edwards reference, column 4, lines 5-10, it is disclosed that "the

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forming of the cup is done with the plastic material heated to a plastic temperature, and at such temperature, it is a simple matter to bring two parts into contact so that they will fuse or stick together." This means that ribs of Edwards are formed by bending a plastic sheet material. This is also apparent from the drawings of Edwards. As a result, there is a great difference in structure of the rib forming between the present invention and Edwards.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Edwards does not disclose all of the features of claim 17 and thus cannot anticipate the embodiment of the invention set forth in claim 17 or in claims 18, 20, 25 and 26 which depend therefrom.

In view of the changes to claim 17 and the arguments presented above, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claims 17, 18, 20, 25 and 26 as being anticipated by Edwards has been overcome and should be removed.

Claims 9, 11, 14-22 and 24-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by and under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwartz. As claims 9, 11, 14-16, 19, 21, 22 and 24 are cancelled, this rejection is now applicable only to claims 17, 18, 20 and 25-27.

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The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed on the grounds that Schwartz does not disclose a heat-insulating container including all of the features of claims 17, 18, 20 and 25-27.

Specifically, Schwartz does not include a container body having downwardly-facing, vertically oriented subsidiary ribs coupled to a circumferential ledge and each having a downwardly-facing lower edge extending a distance from the circumferential ledge with the subsidiary ribs being arranged such that a portion of each rib including the downwardly-facing lower edge is separated from the circumferential wall by a space to thereby form a double-layered reinforcing and insulating annular portion.

There is no double-layered structure in Schwartz formed by a downwardly facing, vertically oriented rib and an outer circumferential wall separated by a space as in the claimed invention. Schwartz shows individual projections on the outer wall of the container which do not cooperate with the outer wall to define a double-layered portion.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Schwartz does not disclose all of the features of claim 17 and thus cannot anticipate the embodiment of

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the invention set forth in claim 17 or in claims 18, 20 and 25-27 which depend therefrom.

Schwartz also does not disclose vertical ribs extending in a straight line from a bottom of the container to an upper end of the container as set forth in claim 27. The ribs 13,15 in Schwartz are segmented as shown in Fig. 1 and thus do not extend in a straight line from the bottom of the container to an upper end.

In view of the arguments presented above, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claims 17, 18, 20 and 25-27 as being anticipated by Schwartz has been overcome and should be removed.

Claims 9-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chaplin in view of Edwards. As claims 9-16, 19, 21, 22 and 24 are cancelled, this rejection is now applicable only to claims 17, 18, 20, 23 and 25-27.

The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed on the grounds that Chaplin and Edwards do not disclose a heat-insulating container including downwardly-facing, vertically oriented subsidiary ribs coupled to a circumferential ledge and each having a downwardly-facing lower edge extending a distance from the

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circumferential ledge with the subsidiary ribs being arranged such that a portion of each rib including the downwardly-facing lower edge is separated from the circumferential wall by a space to thereby form a double-layered reinforcing and insulating annular portion.

As discussed above, Edwards does not disclose this feature and the Examiner acknowledged that Chaplin does not disclose this feature.

Thus, one could not modify Chaplin in view of Edwards and arrive at the embodiments of the invention set forth in claims 17, 18, 20, 23 and 25-27.

Applicant respectfully requests a one month extension of time for responding to the Office Action. Please charge the fee of \$110.00 for the extension of time to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

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In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

Respectfully submitted,
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APPENDIX I

AMENDED CLAIMS WITH AMENDMENTS INDICATED THEREIN
BY BRACKETS AND UNDERLINING

17. (Amended) A heat-insulating container comprising:

[a] ^{cl. 22} an injection-molded container body having

a bottom wall,

a ^{cl. 19} circumferential wall integrally coupled to a periphery of said bottom wall and extending upwardly from said bottom wall to define an inner space and an upper end, said circumferential wall being formed by at least two circumferential wall parts, each having a different diameter, and a circumferential ledge arranged between said wall parts, said wall parts being arranged such that a diameter of said circumferential wall decreases in a direction from said upper end to said bottom wall,

straight, vertical insulating ribs arranged on an outer [side] surface of said circumferential wall and spaced from one another, and

^{N.I.} downwardly-facing, vertically oriented subsidiary ribs [arranged on said outer side of said circumferential wall] ^{cl. 21} coupled to said circumferential ledge and ^{N.I.} each having a downwardly-facing lower edge extending a distance from said circumferential [wall] ledge, said subsidiary ribs being arranged such that a portion of each of said subsidiary ribs including said downwardly-facing lower edge is

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separated from said circumferential wall by a space to thereby form a double-layered reinforcing and insulating annular portion [on said outer side of] whereby one layer of said double-layered portion is constituted by said subsidiary ribs and another layer is constituted by said circumferential wall and said space is between said subsidiary ribs and said circumferential wall, each of said subsidiary ribs being arranged between adjacent ones of said vertical ribs and having opposite lateral edges coupled to the adjacent ones of said vertical ribs.

predetermined clearance

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